

claimed method may be applied to one or several genes (i.e., at least one pair of primers is used).

The amendments are submitted to make it clear, if the same was needed, that, with the claimed method, rearrangements can be detected and the sequences involved in the rearrangements can be identified in the same experiment.

To the extent not obviated by the above amendments, the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 16-38 is traversed. Consideration of the following in this regard is requested (wherein the applicants have responded to the Examiner's individual objections by reference to the Examiner's subparagraphs).

A) The recitation of "a step of anchored PCR" has been amended.

B) and C) The claims have been amended to specify that one of the primers is a complementary anchored primer.

D) The objected-to phrase "all the gene rearrangements" has been amended for clarity, without prejudice, to advance prosecution.

E) The objected-to phrase "gene rearrangements" has been amended for clarity, without prejudice, to advance prosecution.

F) The objected-to phrase "any part of the genome adjacent to the target gene" has been amended for clarity, without prejudice, to advance prosecution.

G) The objected-to phrase "when present" has been deleted, without prejudice, to advance prosecution.

H) The reagents for carrying out the PCR and the detection have been specified.

I) The applicants respectfully submit claim 33 is clear and does not require amendment to include traditional "Markush" language. The same is not necessarily required and the Examiner has failed to indicate why one of ordinary skill in the art would not appreciate the meets and bounds of the subject matter of claim 33. Clarification is requested in this regard in the event the rejection of claim 33 is maintained.

J) The recitation of the objected-to phrase is submitted to be definite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection of claim 33 is requested.

K) and L) The objected-to inclusion of the term "the" has to be deleted to obviate the rejection.

Withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph rejection is requested.

The Section 103 rejection of claims 16-38 over Corral et al in view of Liu et al is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Corral teaches means for detecting chromosomal rearrangements, but does not disclose means for identifying the rearrangements.

Liu teaches the amplification and sequencing of insert end segments from clones.

Contrary to the Examiner's opinion, the ordinarily skilled artisan would not have combined Corral and Liu teachings as such a combination would have resulted in a method which would have been difficult to carry out and time consuming, since it comprises a PCR amplification, followed by a sequencing step.

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The cited documents do not suggest that more effective methods of identification than amplifying and sequencing should be used for identifying DNA sequences involved in chromosomal rearrangements.


There is no suggestion or teaching in Corral or Liu to look for a method directly giving the identification results. It is submitted therefore that the claimed method is patentable over Corral and Liu as it provides, at once, in the same experiment, the detection and the identification of the DNA sequences involved in rearrangements of a target gene or of target genes (several types of rearrangements can be identified if several target genes are amplified). There is no teaching or suggestion in this respect in Corral or Liu.

Withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection is therefore requested.

In view of the above, the claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that affect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

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MARKED UP SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification as follows.

Page 21, delete the paragraph on line 16 and insert the following therefor:

--(SEQ ID NO [N°] 2, 44 nucleotides, Tm = 84°C).--

Page 21, delete the paragraph on line 26 and insert the following therefor:

--(SEQ ID NO [N°] 3, 32 nucleotides, Tm = 84°C), and--

Page 21, delete the paragraph on line 33 and insert the following therefor:

--(SEQ ID NO [N°] 4, 29 nucleotides, Tm = 86°C), and--

Page 22, delete the paragraph on line 33 and insert the following therefor:

--(SEQ ID NO [N°] 5, 35 nucleotides, Tm = 81°C).--

Page 23, delete the paragraph spanning lines 5-6 and insert the following therefor:

-- - ribozyme 1: CUCCAGCUGA UGAGUCCGUG AGGACGAAAC CUUUGG

(SEQ ID NO [N°] 6)--

Page 23, delete the paragraph spanning lines 8-9 and insert the following therefor:

-- - ribozyme 2: CUGGAAUCUG AUGAGUCCGU GAGGACGAAA UUUUCUUC

(SEQ ID NO [N°] 7)--